

# **12 Tips for Making the Most of Your Wildflower Photos**

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# 1. Timing Is Everything

Shoot early in the morning, or an hour before sunset for the best light.

Blues don't pop under blue skies.

Midday sun causes harsh shadows.

Shooting on a cloudy day minimizes shadow intensity & harsh contrast.

Set your White Balance accordingly.

## **2. For Best Color Results**

Shoot blue or violet flowers early in the morning.

Yellows in midmorning or midafternoon.

Reds in late afternoon.

# 3. Down and Dirty

Get low to the ground for flower shots.

Kneel or lie down at the same the level as the flowers.

Low perspective makes flowers look bigger, and fills up more of the frame.

## **4. Up, Down, all Around**

Get up high and shoot down.

Put the camera on the ground looking up.

Get as close as you can.

Look from a distance, zoom in or out.

Don't just walk up to the flowers, take one shot, and walk away.

# 5. Up Close

Shoot when the wind is calm to capture close-up images.

Block the wind or steady a moving flower.

Use a tripod or monopod for best results.

## **6. Light Touch**

Having the flowers backlit by the sun or a flash unit will brighten and highlight flower petals, cobwebs, tall grass, etc.

# 7. Items of Interest

Look for the unnatural in the natural.

Maybe it's a fence or a car tire that will make that flower stand out.

Ditto for natural things like a tree stump, a large rock, or the edge of a pond.

# 8. Singular Focus

Put one flower in sharp focus against a blurry background.

Use large aperture, wide open.

If using a point & shoot, zoom in as close as possible (check your manual first).

Understand your Macro settings.

# 9. In the Best Light

Photograph people early in the morning, or late in the afternoon.

Don't make them squint their eyes looking into the sun.

Position them with the sun to the side, not behind you.

Cloudy days are good for close-up shots and for photographing people.

# 10. Strike a Pose

Have human subjects get close to the flowers for portraits.

If subject is backlit, use a fill flash to reduce facial shadows.

Dial down the flash intensity if necessary (check your manual on how to do this).

Check your LCD playback before leaving the location. Reshoot as necessary.

# 11. What to Wear

Choose clothing that contrasts with the colors in the scene.

Consider taking extra/different colored clothing for different subjects/settings.

# 12. Look Behind

Choose an uncluttered setting.

Pay attention to what's behind your subjects.

Eliminate distracting objects in the background by moving left or right.

Zoom in or out to crop the scene and create better composition.